

Sampling Investigation Trip Report - 2/26/88

Reference 13
1 2 0001

Bart Reedy

10397

Jon Johnston

Name: Prairie Metals and Chemicals MSD 980 839 898

Location: Prairie Monroe County, Mississippi

Source: State F. A.

Personnel: Bart Reedy - EPA, Mike Profit - MUS, Pat Ianni - MUS

Background: Prairie Metals is an inactive chrome plating facility that was closed in 1979. Operation of the facility was under two different owners. Prairie Metals was the operator from 1973 through 1978, System Services operated the plant in 1978 and 1979.

The facility is located on property owned by the City of Aberdeen and the 4th Supervisory District. The site is in an inactive Army Ammunition Plant. The City leases the property to various light and medium industries and area farmers.

The plant discharged process waste water into three lagoons and allowed the metals to fall out of suspension. State tests on the waste water indicate trivalent and hexavalent chrome concentrations >1000 ppm. Only one lagoon presently exists. The other lagoons were filled with waste by-product and lime and were covered and graded. All vegetation in that area of the site appears healthy and there is no surface expression of pre-existing lagoons.

The by-product of the plating process is a material known as Ferrous Ammonium Sulfate (FAS). This by-product was spread around the grounds and also stockpiled. Prairie Metals unsuccessfully sought permission from the state to sell FAS as a fertilizer. The material is bulk stored in an abandoned steam plant at the location. The roof of the building is badly deteriorated and FAS dissolved by rain discharges in Hang Kettle Creek. The vegetation immediately surrounding this building appears stressed. The building contains 50 - 75 cubic yards of FAS.

In the closer of this sampling investigation, it was discovered that the facility is in the approximate center of the well field for the City of Aberdeen. Four wells are within 1 mile. Only one well was sampled as the others were not pumping at this time.

Recommendations:

1. Notify HPA water supply branch
2. Secure lab data as soon as possible on water supply prior to complete report.

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